



# Media Information

Columbus Division of Police

Date: 04/21/2020

Traffic Bureau / Accident Investigation Unit

Thomas Quinlan, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Accident Investigation Unit

Phone: (614) 645 - 4767

Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Fatal Traffic Crash

Date: 04/21/2020

Time: 7:56am

Location of Offense/Incident: I-270 over Worthington-Galena Rd

Zone: 1

Precinct: 1

Incident Report #: 200290820

Cruiser District: 12

Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex: Race: Age:
Charges:	
Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex: Race: Age:
Charges:	

**Incident Summary:** On Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at approximately 7:56 AM, Earnest Steele, 70 years old of Englewood, Ohio, was operating a tractor-trailer rig eastbound on I-270 over Worthington-Galena Rd. Directly in front of Mr. Steele was a 2008 Saturn Vue that was being operated by Albert Abaka-Sampson, 62 years old from Westerville, Ohio. Mr. Sampson's wife, Helena Abaka-Sampson, 60 years old of Westerville, Ohio, was a front seat passenger in Mr. Sampson's vehicle. Mr. Sampson either slowed the Saturn Vue to a very slow speed, or he came to a complete stop and was struck from behind by Mr. Steele's truck. Mr. Sampson and Mrs. Sampson both suffered extreme injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene of this crash.

The Accident Investigation Unit responded to the scene and initiated an investigation, which is ongoing.

The freeway was reopened at 12:12 PM.

These are the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> traffic fatalities for 2020.

Copy To: ☒ Executive Staff

☒ Bureau Commander

☒ Public Information Office

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Assignment: AIU

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Approved By: Sgt. Brooke Wilson

Assignment: AIU